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BOOK REVIEWS.

COMPARATIVE LEGAL PHILOSOPHY APPLIED TO LEGAL INSTITUTIONS. By Luigi Miraglia. Translated from the Italian by John Lisle. Modern Legal Philosophy Series III. Boston Book Co., Boston, Mass.

This is the third of a series of translations of modern works on the philosophy of law by representative continental writers edited by a committee of the Association of American Law Schools with the laudable purpose of acquainting the American lawyer and law student with the various schools of modern jurisprudence in their latest and most representative form, as a preparation for the scientific restatement of our own law, now seemingly inevitable in many departments. The work of Professor Miraglia, it was thought, would serve the purpose of an historical introduction and survey of the various schools of thought from past to present. It is, indeed, most extensive in its scope; not only does it cover the whole field of legal philosophy but it is also preceded by a summary of the history of general philosophy by way of introduction. This is followed by a critical examination of the idea of law and the relation of law to ethics, politics and sociology. The second book is devoted to private law, the individual and his rights; property, contracts, the family, inheritance, *etc.* As the book was intended primarily for the use of undergraduate students it is discursive in style touching upon an infinitude of problems without attempting an exhaustive study of any particular subject. While the writer places special emphasis on Italian writers there are constant references to German, English and French philosophers and jurists, showing broad sympathies and wide reading. While interested more in comparing schools of thought than in offering an individual viewpoint there is nevertheless a marked preference shown for the philosophy of Vico and much space that might have been better employed is devoted to an attempt to show that his hero was the originator of much that is modern. The writer's metaphysics is not that of any of the great German schools, but is conservatively eclectic, touched here and there with an inclination toward positivist conceptions.

Works on general jurisprudence have seldom been popular with the English or American bars. The abstract discussion seems far removed from the realm of practical affairs and the exasperating habit civilian writers have of quoting copiously, without references, citations or even a bibliography is a deterrent to those of exact and scientific habits of research. But novel ideas are valuable in whatever form clothed and a perusal of this and the other works in the contemplated series will undoubtedly broaden the view and widen the culture of those whose reading has been confined wholly to English and American sources.

W. H. L.

THE PRESIDENT'S CABINET; STUDIES IN THE ORIGIN, FORMATION, AND STRUCTURE OF AN AMERICAN INSTITUTION. Henry Barrett Learned. New Haven, 1912. Yale University Press. Pp. 471.

Among the recent historical and political publications by the Yale University Press, none have gone into newer fields or upon less well known paths than the volume issued under the above title. This study of the origin and theoretical usefulness of the Federal Cabinet it is promised to follow by a second series of studies dealing with Practices and Personnel of the American Cabinet. When this shall have been accomplished the two volumes will constitute a most comprehensive history and critique of a more or less informal branch of the national government, a branch of which the average